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LETTER DATED 26 MAY 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Further to the letter dated 19 May 1999 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to you (S/1999/580, annex), I wish to bring it to your attention that on 18 May 1999 a number of Turkish fighter aircraft violated Iraq's national airspace in the Baibo, Aqrah and Amadiyah areas. Four sorties were flown, each one by a formation consisting of two aircraft of the F-16 or F-4 type.

The Government of Iraq condemns in the strongest terms the violation of its airspace by the Turkish Air Force, and it calls upon the Turkish Government to desist from any repetition of practices that are incompatible with relations of good neighbourliness and the principles of international law and of the Charter of the United Nations. The Government of Iraq further rejects outright the pretexts advanced by Turkey to justify such violations in northern Iraq, given that the alleged pursuit of elements that pose a threat to Turkish national security does not make it legitimate for Turkey to pursue a policy that is entirely at odds with its declared commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq.

Turkey's distress is fundamentally due to the persistence of the anomalous situation that was created in the area by the United States and the United Kingdom in cooperation with the Turkish Government itself.

The Government of Iraq reserves the right to seek compensation for the damage caused by these unlawful actions, it renews its call to the Government of Turkey to put a halt to operations that violate Iraq's sovereignty and place its security and integrity in great jeopardy, and it urges Turkey to give concrete expression to its professed respect for the norms of good neighbourliness between States.

As I express the hope that the United Nations will fulfil its responsibilities as stipulated in the Charter and will halt the constant intimidation and aggression to which my country is being subjected, I request you to do your utmost to urge the Turkish Government to comply with the norms enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in international law.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Rokan Hama AL-ANBUGE
Chargé d'affaires a.i.